

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MASS, KS

SUBJ: F5ES FOR ROK

REF: (A) CJUSMAGK/SEOUL 090050ZJULY 75 (B) SEOUL 2885(MAY74

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE (C) SEOUL 4518

1. WE BELIEVE THAT WE MUST NOW MOVE AHEAD QUICKLY IN INFORMING ROKG OF RETURN OF 21 REHAB F5ES FROM TAIWAN. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE WILL BE ADVERSE ROKG REACTION TO FACT THAT THE 21 ROK MAP FUNDED WERE SENT FIRST TO TAIWAN BEFORE REHABILITATION AND RETURN TO ROK.

2. IN EXPLANATION YOU SHOULD INFORM ROKG THAT DUE TO PRESSING US REQUIREMENTS WORLDWIDE, PARTICULARLY IN SEA, THE F5E AIRCRAFT DESTINED FOR KOREA HAD TO BE DIVERTED TO TAIWAN AND FLOWN PRIOR TO DELIVERY TO THE ROK. THOSE

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21 AIRCRAFT, HOWEVER, ARE BEING RECONDITIONED BY THE ROC

PRIOR TO RETURN TO THE USG. THE WORK TO BE PERFORMED INCLUDES ALL INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE REQUIRED TO RESTORE THE AIRCRAFT TO FULL OPERATIONAL CONDITION. THIS WILL INCLUDE SUCH WORK AS CLEANING, CORROSION TREATMENT IF REQUIRED, AND ACCOMPLISHMENT OF REQUIRED PHASE INSPECTIONS ON THE AIRCRAFT, ENGINES, AND INSTALLED EQUIPMENT. ALL REHABILITATION COSTS ARE AT ROC EXPENSE.

3. THE FIRST TWO AIRCRAFT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FERRY FLIGHT TO KOREA DURING AUGUST 12-16 TIME FRAME WITH FOLLOW-ON DELIVERIES AT A RATE OF TWO TO THREE PER MONTH UNTIL ALL 21 AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN DELIVERED. THEY WILL ALL BE LOW FLYING TIME AIRCRAFT SINCE THE FIRST AIRCRAFT WAS NOT PRODUCED UNTIL OCTOBER 1974 AND DELIVERIES TO THE ROC WERE NOT COMPLETED UNTIL MAY 1975. OUR BEST INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE LOW TIME AIRCRAFT HAS 20 HOURS WITH THE

THE TOTAL 21 AIRCRAFT IS LESS THAN 50 HOURS.

4. FYI: WHILE NEGATIVE ROKG REACTION INEVITABLE, THE USG HAS NOT DEFAULTED ON THE ENHANCE PLUS AGREEMENTS. THE ROKG INVOLVEMENT IN ENHANCE PLUS WAS TIED TO F5AS AND NOT F5E AIRCRAFT. THE USG AGREED TO (A) IN RETURN FOR 36 F5AS "BORROWED" FROM THE ROK, RETURN 36 F5AS IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME CONDITION, AND (B) BAIL 18 F4D AIRCRAFT TO KOREA PENDING RETURN OF THE F5AS. ALL 36 F5AS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THE ROK. ADDITIONALLY, IN MAJOR CONCESSION ON OUR PART, WE HAVE AUTHORIZED FMS SALE OF THE BAILED F4D SQUADRON.

5. WE HAVE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO YOUR PROPOSAL REFTTEL C WITH REGARD TO THE SALE OF ROK OF THESE 21 AIRCRAFT WITH SUBSEQUENT PROVISION OF MAP FOR AN ADDITIONAL 21. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SUCH SERIOUS LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED THAT WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE PROPOSED APPROACH WOULD RISK RUNNING AFOUL OF ANY FUTURE FRASER AMENDMENT TYPE CEILING AS WELL AS OTHER SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES. THE 21 AIRCRAFT NOW IN TAIWAN WERE FUNDED WITH FY 73/74 KOREAN MAP FUNDS AND IF THESE AIRCRAFT ARE SOLD TO ROK, FUNDS THUS GENERATED WOULD HAVE TO BE RE-

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PROGRAMMED TO ACQUIRE NEW F5ES FOR THE ROK. THIS WOULD BE NEW OBLIGATION OF FUNDS AND WOULD LIKELY BE SUBJECT TO ANY FY 1976 LEGISLATIVE CEILING ON KOREAN MAP. INGERSOLL

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